

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A computer system comprising:
2 at least one processor;
3 a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
4 a network interface coupled to the at least one processor, the network interface
5 coupling the computer system to a plurality of other computer systems via a network;
6 an object oriented framework mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the
7 at least one processor, the framework mechanism comprising a cloning mechanism that
8 replicates configuration data for a model computer system to at least one of the plurality of
9 other computer systems.
- 1 2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein the cloning mechanism comprises a first
2 portion that cannot be modified by a user and a second portion that is extensible by the user.
- 1 3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein the first portion comprises a model class
2 that defines a model object that corresponds to the model computer system and that
3 contains the configuration data for the model computer system.
- 1 4. The computer system of claim 3 wherein the model object comprises
2 configuration data that is defined by a user using a graphical user interface.
- 1 5. The computer system of claim 3 wherein the model object comprises
2 configuration data that corresponds to configuration data in a selected one of the plurality
3 of other computer systems that is selected by a user.

1 6. The computer system of claim 2 wherein the second portion comprises a system
2 aspect class that defines at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute
3 of a computer system.

1 7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein the at least one attribute is selected from
2 the group comprising:
3 user IDs, file system, database, network configuration, environment variables,
4 software products, fixes, hardware, and performance controls.

1 8. The computer system of claim 2 wherein:
2 the first portion comprises a model class that defines a model object that
3 corresponds to the model computer system and that contains the configuration data for the
4 model computer system;
5 the second portion comprises a system aspect class that defines at least one system
6 aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system; and
7 the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect
8 objects.

1 9. The computer system of claim 2 wherein the first portion comprises a system
2 replicator class that defines at least one system replicator object that compares the
3 configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one of the
4 plurality of other computer systems, and that replicates the configuration data from the
5 model object to the at least one of the plurality of other computer systems.

1 10. A computer system comprising:
2 at least one processor;
3 a memory coupled to the at least one processor;
4 an object oriented framework mechanism residing in the memory and executed by
5 the at least one processor, the framework mechanism comprising:
6 at least one object oriented model class that cannot be modified by a user,
7 the model class defining at least one model object that defines configuration data
8 for a model computer system;
9 at least one system aspect class that is extensible by a user, the system
10 aspect class defining at least one system aspect object that defines at least one
11 attribute of a computer system, wherein the configuration data in the model object
12 comprises a collection of system aspect objects; and
13 at least one system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user, the
14 system replicator class defining at least one system replicator object that compares
15 the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one
16 selected computer system, and that replicates the configuration data from the
17 model object to the at least one selected computer system.

1 11. A method for changing the configuration of at least one selected computer system
 2 on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

3 (1) providing an object oriented framework mechanism comprising a cloning
 4 mechanism that replicates configuration data for a model computer system to at least one
 5 selected computer system;

6 (2) extending at least one extensible portion of the framework mechanism to
 7 define at least one system aspect for each selected computer system;

8 (3) executing the extended framework mechanism;

9 (4) defining configuration data for a model computer system; and

10 (5) the executing framework mechanism updating configuration data for each
 11 selected computer system according to the defined configuration data for the model
 12 computer system.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the executing framework mechanism compares
 2 the configuration data for each selected computer system with the defined configuration
 3 data for the model computer system to determine for which selected computer system
 4 step (5) is required.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user defining at
 2 least one system aspect using a graphical user interface.

1 14. The method of claim 11 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user selecting
 2 one computer system on the network as the model computer system, wherein the
 3 configuration data for the selected one computer system is the source of configuration
 4 data for the model computer system.

1 15. A method for changing the configuration of at least one selected computer system
2 on a network, the method comprising the steps of:
3 (1) providing an object oriented framework mechanism comprising:
4 (1A) a model class that cannot be modified by a user, the model class
5 defining at least one model object that defines configuration data for a model
6 computer system;
7 (1B) a system aspect class that is extensible by a user, the system aspect
8 class defining at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of
9 a computer system, wherein the configuration data in the model object comprises
10 a collection of system aspect objects; and
11 (1C) a system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user, the
12 system replicator class defining at least one system replicator object that compares
13 the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one
14 selected computer system, and that replicates the configuration data from the
15 model object to the at least one selected computer system;
16 (2) extending the system aspect class of the framework mechanism to define at
17 least one system aspect for each selected computer system;
18 (3) executing the extended framework mechanism;
19 (4) defining configuration data for a model computer system; and
20 (5) the executing framework mechanism updating configuration data for each
21 selected computer system according to configuration data in the model object.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the executing framework mechanism compares
2 the configuration data for each selected computer system with the defined configuration
3 data for the model computer system to determine for which selected computer system
4 step (5) is required.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user defining at
2 least one system aspect using a graphical user interface.

1 18. The method of claim 15 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user selecting
2 one computer system on the network as the model computer system, wherein the
3 configuration data for the selected one computer system is the source of configuration
4 data for the model computer system.

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- 1 19. A program product comprising:
 - 2 (1) an object oriented framework mechanism comprising a cloning mechanism
 - 3 that replicates configuration data for a model computer system to at least one of the
 - 4 plurality of other computer systems; and
 - 5 (2) computer readable signal bearing media bearing the framework mechanism.
- 1 20. The program product of claim 19 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
- 2 recordable media.
- 1 21. The program product of claim 19 wherein the signal bearing media comprises
- 2 transmission media.
- 1 22. The program product of claim 19 wherein the cloning mechanism comprises a
- 2 first portion that cannot be modified by a user and a second portion that is extensible by
- 3 the user.
- 1 23. The program product of claim 22 wherein the first portion comprises a model
- 2 class that defines a model object that corresponds to the model computer system and that
- 3 contains the configuration data for the model computer system.
- 1 24. The program product of claim 23 wherein the model object comprises
- 2 configuration data that is defined by a user using a graphical user interface.
- 1 25. The program product of claim 23 wherein the model object comprises
- 2 configuration data that corresponds to configuration data in a selected one of the plurality
- 3 of other computer systems that is selected by a user.

1 26. The program product of claim 22 wherein the second portion comprises a system
2 aspect class that defines at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute
3 of a computer system.

1 27. The program product of claim 26 wherein the at least one attribute is selected
2 from the group comprising:

3 user IDs, file system, database, network configuration, environment variables,
4 software products, fixes, hardware, and performance controls.

1 28. The program product of claim 22 wherein:
2 the first portion comprises a model class that defines a model object that
3 corresponds to the model computer system and that contains the configuration data for the
4 model computer system;

5 the second portion comprises a system aspect class that defines at least one system
6 aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system; and

7 the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect
8 objects.

1 29. The program product of claim 22 wherein the first portion comprises a system
2 replicator class that defines at least one system replicator object that compares the
3 configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one of the
4 plurality of other computer systems, and that replicates the configuration data from the
5 model object to the at least one of the plurality of other computer systems.

30. A program product comprising:
- (1) an object oriented framework mechanism comprising:
- (1A) at least one object oriented model class that cannot be modified by a user, the model class defining at least one model object that defines configuration data for a model computer system;
- (1B) at least one system aspect class that is extensible by a user, the system aspect class defining at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system, wherein the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects; and
- (1C) at least one system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user, the system replicator class defining at least one system replicator object that compares the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one selected computer system, and that replicates the configuration data from the model object to the at least one selected computer system; and
- (2) computer readable signal bearing media bearing the framework mechanism.
31. The program product of claim 30 wherein the signal bearing media comprises recordable media.
32. The program product of claim 30 wherein the signal bearing media comprises transmission media.

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